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sophical Transactions of the Royal Society, on the development of the skull in various vertebrate animals. These are the skate and dogfish, the salmon, axolotl, frog, snake, fowl and pig. Appendices on the general structure of the skull of the orders to which these animals belong, together with one on the human skull, are added. A preliminary chapter on general embryology, and a closing one on the general homologies of the elements of the cartilaginous and osseous skulls, complete the work. The mode of treatment of the subject by Prof. Parker is lucid, and the text is illustrated by numerous excellent cuts. It is the best manual of the subject in the English language, and to the student of any aspect of the osteology of vertebrata, is invaluable. It introduces an extensive and difficult department to a large class who do not read German or French with sufficient facility to master the subject in those languages. We observe with pleasure that the authors are not contented with the dry enumeration of facts alone, but are willing to indulge in reflections on the wider bearings of their theme. Their observations on the homologies of the cranial elements, and the nature of the supposed segments, are interesting and judicious, and we refer to them (pp. 331, 342-3, 359) as models of cautious induction without affectation of an ignorance, which is greater than their knowledge of the facts demand.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.—A Text Book of Physiology. By M. Foster, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. London: Macmillan & Co., 1877. 8vo, pp. 889. \$6.00.

United States Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel. Clarence King, Geologist-in-Charge. Microscopical Petrography. By Ferdinand Zirkel. Illustrated by twelve plates. Washington, 1876. 4to, pp. 297.

Sixth Report of the State Entomologist on the Noxious and Beneficial Insects of the State of Illinois. The first biennial Report. By Cyrus Thomas, Ph.D. Springfield, Ill., 1877. 8vo, pp. 180.

Brehm's Thierleben. Band ii, Heft 8-11 iii. 1-8. Leipzig, 1877. New York: B. Westermann & Co. 8vo. 40 cents a Heft.

Zur Kenntniss des Einflusses der äusseren Lebensbedingungen auf die Organisation der Thiere. Von Wladimir Schrankewitsch (Zeitschrift für wiss. Zoologie. Band xxix). 8vo, pp. 65.

Life Histories of the Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania. By Thomas G. Gentry. Vol. ii. Salem, Mass., Naturalist's Agency. 1877. 12mo, pp. 336.

On New Forms of Actiniaria dredged in the Deep Sea; with a Description of certain Pelagic Surface-swimming Species. By H. N. Moseley. 4to, pp. 10, with a plate.

On two Forms of Deep-sea Ascidians; obtained during the voyage of H. M. S. *Challenger*. By H. N. Moseley. 4to, pp. 8. (From the Linnæan Transactions, Ser. 2d, vol. i.)

On the Structure of a species of *Millepora* occurring at Tahiti, Society Islands. By H. N. Moseley. (From the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, vol. 167, part 1.) 4to, pp. 18.

On the larval Characters and Habits of the Blister-beetles, belonging to the genera *Macrobasis* Lec. and *Epicauta* Fabr.; with Remarks on other species of the family Meloidæ. On a remarkable new genus in Meloidæ infesting Mason-bee Cells in the United States. Additional Notes on *Megathymus yuccæ*. Further Remarks on *Pronuba yuccasella*, and on the Pollination of *Yucca*. On the Differences between *Anisopteryx pometaria* How., and *Anisopteryx æscularia* W.-V., with Remarks on the genus *Paleacrita*. By C. V. Riley. (From the Transactions of the Academy of Science of St. Louis. Vol. iii, No. 4.) 1877. 8vo, pp. 34.

Polar Colonization. The Preliminary Arctic Expedition of 1877. Washington, D. C. 8vo, pp. 32.

Immortality. All Life conditionally Immortal. By William Bross. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co. 8vo, pp. 8.

The Geological Formations of La Salle county, and their Organic Remains. By William W. Calkins. 12mo, pp. 11.

Recent Investigations of Embryologists. By Charles Sedgwick Minot. (From the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, xix.) 8vo, pp. 7.

Report on the present state of our knowledge of the Crustacea. Part i, ii. On the Homologies of the Dermal Skeleton. By C. Spence Bate. (From the Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for 1875, 1876.) 8vo, pp. 12, 20.

Geology of Wisconsin, Surveys of 1873-1877; Vol. II. Part I, Historical; II, Eastern Wisconsin; III, Central Wisconsin; IV, Lead Region. Accompanied by an atlas of maps. Published under the direction of the Chief Geologist, T. C. Chamberlin, by the State Commissioners of Public Printing, Madison, Wis. 1877. 8vo, pp. 768.

Palæontological Bulletin, No. 28. On new Vertebrata from the Upper Tertiaries of the West. On new Saurians discovered by Mr. Wheatley in the Trias of Pennsylvania. On the Vertebrata of the Dakota Epoch of Colorado. By E. D. Cope. (Read before the American Philosophical Society, December 21, 1877.) 8vo, pp. 28.

Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences; Vol III. Buffalo. From April, 1875, to August, 1877. 8vo, pp. 230.

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GENERAL NOTES.

BOTANY.

LAVALÉE'S ARBORETUM SEGREZIANUM.¹—This is a handsome volume of some 500 pages, containing a catalogue of the trees and shrubs collected by Mons. Lavalée on his estate at Segrez, a few miles south of Paris, with their synonyms, origin, and with abundant references to the most accessible figures. In an interesting preface M. Lavalée tells us how, from a small beginning ten years ago, his collection has grown until it contains more than 3000 species and garden varieties; of the excessive labor which its formation and scientific arrangement has enjoined on him; and of the many difficulties he encountered in determining the names of the plants which he has ransacked Europe to procure. How admirably he has overcome these difficulties, difficulties which will hardly be appreciated except by those who have undertaken the formation of a large scientific collection of living plants, his pages tell.

The second portion of the preface is devoted to a by far too short historical sketch of the principal collections of exotic trees, which have been found in France from the time of René du Bellay, in the middle of the sixteenth century, down to that which Vilmorin brought together on his estate at Barres; now fortunately in possession of the State as a school of forestry.

¹ *Arboretum Segrezianum—Enumeration des Arbres et Arbrisseaux Cultivés à Segrez.* Par ALPH. LAVALÉE. (Paris: J. B. Baillière et Fils. 1877.)